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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/801,412	MCCALLUM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel C. Crane	3725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed October 6, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

IN THE CLAIMS

The following obvious errors have been corrected.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said template represents relative movement between the stamping die and said end tool along a transfer path toward a release position where the end tool releases [the] a workpiece.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. A method of checking clearance between a stamping die and a workpiece transfer system end tool, said method comprising the steps of:

a.) positioning a template comprising a surface representative of relative movement between the stamping die and the end tool relative to a portion of a stamping die; and

b.) indicating that the end tool will contact the stamping die in response to a portion of surface of the template contacting said stamping die.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the surface of the template represents relative movement of the end tool moving toward a grasp position where the end tool grasps [the] a workpiece.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the surface of the template represents relative movement of the end tool moving away from a release position where the end tool releases [the] a workpiece.

Claim cancellation:

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 16-22 to a non-elected invention without traverse.

Accordingly, claims 16-22 have been cancelled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: One reason for allowance is that the claimed invention *inter alia* involves the checking of clearance between a stamping die and a workpiece transfer system end tool where a template is used to indicate the end tool will contact the stamping die in response to the stamping die contacting the template surface. The prior art does not show this feature where the surface of a template is used to indicate proper clearance between a stamping die and workpiece transfer system. The closest

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teaching is directed to Goto where a pattern is developed between the movement of the die and the workpiece transfer system to ascertain whether interference will occur during operation of the transfer press. However, no contact with a template surface is used to ascertain this interference parameter.

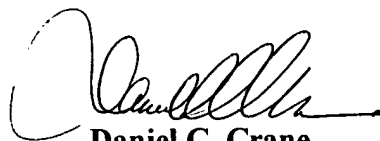
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner D. Crane whose telephone number is (571) 272-4516. The examiner's office hours are 6:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday. The examiner's supervisor, Mr. Derris Banks, can be reached at (571) 272-4419.

Documents related to the instant application may be submitted directly by facsimile transmission at all times. The Examiner's Fax number is (571) 273-4516. Applicant(s) is(are) reminded to clearly mark any transmission as "DRAFT" if it is **not** to be considered as an official response. The Office Facsimile Center number is (571) 273-8300.

DCCrane
December 8, 2005



Daniel C. Crane
Primary Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 3725